

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 09487 251335Z

46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 AID-05 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EUR-12 DODE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /077 W

----- 067654

R 251210Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5485

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 9487

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINR, LE, XF

SUBJECT: ARAB COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION (ACO) LINKED TO PFLP

REF: BEIRUT 8982

1. OFFICER OF LEBANESE ARMY G-2, WHO IS CLOSELY INVOLVED IN ACO INVESTIGATION, DISCLOSED TO EMBOFF JULY 23 THAT AT LEAST ONE LINK BETWEEN ACO CELLS IN LEBANON AND PFLP HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED DURING INTERROGATION OF DETAINEES. SURVEILLANCE PHOTOGRAPHS (PARA 1, REFTEL) DISCOVERED IN RECENT RAID ON ACO APARTMENT WERE ACTUALLY TAKEN BY PFLP. OFFICER, WHO STATED PHOTOS ARE MORE THAN TWO YEARS OLD, REVEALED THAT THEY WERE GIVEN TO ACO BY "CONTACTS" WHO WERE MEMBERS OF PFLP TO ASSIST ACO IN PLANNING OPERATIONS. THIS DISCLOSURE IS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST BECAUSE ALL LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE OF ACO INVESTIGATION HAS EMPHASIZED THAT GOL HAS DENIED CONNECTION BETWEEN ACO AND ANY PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 09487 251335Z

2. WITH AGE OF PHOTOGRAPHS IN MIND AND UPON CLOSER EXAM-

INATION, SEVERAL ADDITIONAL SHOTS WERE DISCOVERED TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN OF EMBASSY. STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN CHANCERY EETERIOR SINCE PHOTOS WERE TAKEN MISLEAD EMBOFFS WHEN THEY HAD INTIAL BRIEF LOOK AT THEM, PARTICULARLY SINCE THEY WERE UNDER IMPRESSION THAT PHOTOS WERE OF RECENT VINTAGE. WE BELIEVE WE WILL BE ABLE, FROM PORTIONS OF PHOTOS, TO DATE THEM WITHIN PERIOD OF ONE MONTH APPROX. AND WILL PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION AS AVAILABLE.

3. /PHASIZING THAT THOSE ARRESTED WERE "HARD CASES" AND EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO PROVIDE INFORMATION, G-2 OFFICR INFORMED EMBOFF THAT INVESTIGATION HAD NOT RPT NOT TURNED UP EVIDENCE OF CURRENT PLANNING FOR OPERATION AGAINST THIS EMBASSY OR ITS PERSONNEL. HE STATED THAT ACO, WHICH G-2 BELIEVES WAS ACUTALLY FORMED A LITTLE MORE THAN ONE YEAR AGO (I.E., SHORTLY BEFORE EXPLOSION AT 1974 DAMASCUS FAIR), FOLLOWED PROCEDURE OF STUDYING VARIOUS POTENTIAL TARGETS AND COMPILING FILES ON EACH POSSIBLE OPERATION FOR REFERENCE. OFFICER REPORTED THAT GOL HAS THUS FAR SEIZED THREE SUCH FILES, BUT HE DECLINED TO SPECIFY TARGETS INVOLVED.

4. OFFICER CLAIMED APPROXIMATELY TWELVE PERSONS ARRESTED AND ADDITIONAL NUMBER SOUGHT. HE SAID THERE HAD NOT BEEN PROGRESS TO DATE IN APPREHENDING THOSE OTHER SOUGHT. SOME LOCAL PAPERS HAVE REPORTED THAT UP TO TWENTY "NON-CIVILIAN" EMPLOYEES OF GOL (PRESS EUPHEMISM FOR ARMY OR INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES) HAD BEEN ARRESTED AS EITHER MEMBERS OR SYMPATHIZERS OF ACO. WE HAVE ALSO HAD REPORT FROM USUALLY KNOWLEDGEABLE LEBANESE SOURCE THAT NUMBER OF ARMY ARRESTEES WAS CONSIDERABLY LARGER THAN TWENTY, BUT WE CANNOT CONFIRM. IN ANY CASE,, INVOLVEMENT OF MILITARY PERSONNEL HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED OFFICIALLY AND G-2 OFFICER DID NOT VOLUNTEER ANY INFORMATION ON SUBJECT JULY 23.

5. AMONG ORIGINAL CIVIANS ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH ACO WAS FEMALE UNIVERSITY STUDENT, YOMNA KAMAL CHAHROURI. JULY 18, 1975 ISSUE OF WEEKLY, "HAWAESS" QUOTED CHAHROURI AS STATING THAT SHE EXPERIENCED RADICAL CHANGE IN HER OUTLOOK AFTER VISITING THE UNITED STATES AND SEEING  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 09487 251335Z

THAT AMERICANS SPEND MORE ON PET FOODS THAN PAKISTAN SPENDS TO ALLEVIATE FAMINE. CHECK OF EMBASSY CONSULAR FILES REVEALS THAT SHE WAS GRANTED SINGLE-ENTRY B-2 VISA ON DEC. 6, 1972. PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS STATED AS "VISIT WITH FRIENDS" WHO WERE DESCRIBED AS "BUSINESS ASSOCIATES" OF HER FATHER. OUR FILES ALSO CONTAIN LETTER FROM JOHN R. DEGAN (48 SOUTH STREET, GOSHEN, NEW YORK 10924) WHO WROTE THAT YUMNA CHAHROURI WAS PLANNING TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH HIS

FAMILY.

6. INTERESTING SIDELIGHT RE ORIGINS OF ACO IS PROVIDED BY SAME ARTICLE IN "HAWADESS" IN DESCRIBING ALI GHADBAN, PALESTINIAN WHO IS ALLEGEDLY KINGPIN OF ACO, WHO WAS ARRESTED IN SYRIA. GHADBAN, ACCORDING TO WEEKLY, IS FANATIC WHO REJECTS ALL POLITICAL PARTIES AND FEDAYEEN ORGANIZATIONS. HE WAS ALLEGEDLY SUCCESSIVELY MEMBER OF FATAH, PFLP AND FINALLY LEBANESE SOCIALIST REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION LED BY MURSHED SHIBBU (BANK OF AMERICA INCIDENT). UNABLE TO CONFORM TO ANY OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS, GHADBN ESTABLISHED HIS OWN MOVEMENT (I.E., ACO) BASED ON MARXIST PRINCIPLES. G-2 OFFICER, WITH WHOM EMBOFF SPOKE JULY 23, STATED LEBANESE AUTHORITIES RESERVING JUDGMENT RE SIGNIFICANCE OF MARXISM AS MOTIVATION FOR ALL ACO ADHERENTS.

7. GOL INVESTIGATION TO DATE HAS, AS ADDRESSEES AWARE, TURNED UP CONNECTIONS WITH ACO CELLS IN SYRIA AND KUWAIT. THERE NO RPT NO EVIDENCE AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER, THAT ACO HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN ESTABLISHING GROUPS IN OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES. G-2 OOFICER STATED THAT ACO WAS MAKING PLANS FOR SRPEAD TO EGYPT AND THAT JORDAN WAS NEXT ON ITS PROJECT LIST.  
GODLEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL PARTIES, COMMUNISTS, LIBERATION FRONTS, TERRORISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BEIRUT09487  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750257-0743  
**From:** BEIRUT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750719/aaaaaqpb.tel  
**Line Count:** 140  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 BEIRUT 8982  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <01 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2003 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ARAB COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION (ACO) LINKED TO PFLP  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, PINR, LE, XF, PFLP, ACO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006